

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

Appl No.: **10/743,178**
Applicant: **Cheng, Li-Ming**
Filing Date: **December 23, 2003**
Art Unit: **3634**
Examiner: **Johnson, Blair**
Attorney Docket No.: **21406-001**
Technology Center: **3600**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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APPEALLANT'S AMENDED APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR § 41.37

This amended brief, follows the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief, dated March 21, 2008, and is filed within one month from the mailing date of such Notification. No extension of time is believed due, and the appellant hereby petitions should any required time extension is necessary. The Office is authorized to charge any additional necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3856.

Only sections III and V have been revised. The Notification of March 21, 2008 indicated that the entire Appeal Brief is not required. Per MPEP sections 1215.04 and 711.02(b), an entire new brief need not, and should not be filed. Rather, the paper provides the amended portions of the Brief that were deemed defective (sections III and V).

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-49 Cancelled (not on appeal)

Claims 50-55 Rejected (on appeal)

Claims 56, 57 Objected to (not on appeal)

Claim 58 Rejected (on appeal)

Claims 59, 60 Rejected (not on appeal)

Claims 61-65 Rejected (on appeal)

Claim 66 Objected to (not on appeal)

Claims 67-69 Rejected (Final Office Action indicates these claims as rejected, but fails to discuss the ground to which these claims were rejected on. The appellant assumes this was a clerical error and that the Final Office Action meant to reject these claims base on 35 U.S.C. 103 using the same cited references.) (on appeal)

Claims 70-73 Rejected (on appeal)

Again, those claims that are on appeal are claims 50-55, 58, 61-65, and 67-73.

V. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

There are four independent claims, claims 50, 62, 67, and 70. There are no mean plus function and step plus function limitations. Dependent claims 65, 71, 72, and 73 are argued separately.

Independent claim 50 refers to a collapsible window covering (e.g., window blinds) capable of height adjustments. An embodiment of this can be found described on page 11 and figure 1. There, a window blind has an upper elongated support (11 in fig. 1, page 11, line 7) with a channel (12 in fig. 1) on the inside (page 11, line 8). Extending downward from the upper elongated support (11) is a collapsible member (e.g., pleats 16 in fig. 1, page 11, line 14). At the bottom of the window blind is a lower elongated member (13 in fig. 1, page 11, line 11). In this window blind system there are at least one primary line used to suspend the blinds. The primary line (20 in fig. 1, page 12, line 1) couples to the lower elongated member (13 in fig. 1) and extends through the pleats (16 in fig. 1). The first primary line (20) continues to extend into the channel (12) of the upper elongated support (11), and couples a secondary line (24 in fig. 7, page 12, line 9). This secondary line leads into a counterbalancing mechanism (see structure circled in fig. 1, and all of fig. 10; described on all of page 13 regarding means 30). The counterbalancing mechanism has two rotary members (see 34 and 35 in fig. 10; page 13, line 17). The counterbalancing mechanism (30) has a spring (32 in fig. 8; page 13, line 16) coupled to one (34) of the two rotary members so as to urge the other rotary member (35) to rotate in a

winding direction to wind and store the secondary line (24 in fig. 7) onto one of the rotary members (see page 13, lines 16-20).

Working together in the channel (12) with the counterbalancing mechanism (30) is a pulley assembly (see figs. 2 and 7; page 16, lines 3-5). The pulley assembly has at least two rotors (50, 51 in fig. 7). The primary line (20 in fig. 7) is entrained about the two rotors (50 and 51).

In operation, the spring (32 in fig. 6) in the counterbalancing mechanism provides suspension force to suspend the lower elongated member (13) in various different heights. The pulley assembly stores primary and secondary lines and makes adjustment of window blinds more accurately.

As for independent claim 62, it is about a method of raising a window covering (e.g., window blind) without using a manual pull cord (see lines 10-13, page 11) by first having a collapsible window covering (e.g., window blind) having an upper elongated support (11), and a collapsible member (e.g., pleats) coupled to the upper elongated support. An embodiment of this method is described in lines 6 to 25 on page 12. At the bottom of the collapsible member (16) is coupled a lower elongated member (part 13, see figure 1, and line 20 of page 12). There are at least two primary lines coupled to the lower elongated member and they extend through the collapsible covering to reach into a channel (12) of the upper elongated support (11, see figure 1). The two primary lines are coupled to a secondary line, this secondary line is then coupled to a counterbalancing mechanism (30) found in the channel (lines 14, 15, page 12). In the channel there is also a pulley assembly (see figures 2 and 3) which has at least two rotors (50-53 in figure 3). At least one of the two primary lines is entrained about the two rotors (figure 3 shows one primary line entrained about the rotors, while figure 4 shows the other primary line entrained about the rotors. Please also see lines 3 to 10 on page 16). The counterbalancing mechanism (30, referred to as “means” on line 1, page 13) has a spring (32 in fig. 6) and two rotary members (34, 35 in fig. 7). The spring couples to a first rotary member which urges the first rotary member to rotate in a winding direction to wind and store the secondary line onto the first rotary member (lines 20-26, page 15; lines 1-2, page 16).

The method further requires that a user manually lift the lower elongated member in an upward direction to allow the collapsible member (e.g., pleats) to shorten (lines 22-25, page 12).

The method further requires that, during lifting of the lower elongated member (13), the two primary lines to move evenly without entangling with each other on the first rotary member (this can be achieved by using a single secondary line 24 to pull two primary lines 20, 21, as illustrated in figure 7; this way, the two primary lines 20, 21 moves evenly and are not entangled on the first rotary member 34.)

As for independent claim 67, it refers to a window covering system that has an upper elongated (11) support, a collapsible member (e.g., pleats 16), a lower elongated member (13), at least two primary lines (20, 21) coupled to the lower elongated member and extends through the collapsible member (see lines 4-15, page 11, and figures 1, 2, and 7).

Within the channel (12) of the upper elongated support (11) is a counterbalancing mechanism (30) that has at least two rotary members (34, 35 in fig. 2; see also line 1-6, page 13, counterbalancing mechanism is referred to as “means”). A secondary line (24 in fig. 7) has an end leading into the counterbalancing mechanism (30). This counterbalancing mechanism has at least one s-shaped spring (32 in fig. 6; lines 16-20, page 13) coupled to a rotary member to urge the rotary member to rotate in a winding direction to wind and store the secondary line onto the rotary member.

Within the channel (12) is also a pulley assembly having at least four rotors, the two primary lines are entrained about at least two of these four rotors (figure 3 shows one primary line entrained about the rotors, while figure 4 shows the other primary line entrained about the rotors. Please also see lines 3 to 10 on page 16). .

As for independent claim 70, it refers to a cordless window covering system that has an upper elongated support (11), a lower elongated member (13), a collapsible window covering member (e.g., pleats 16), a spring motor (circled in fig. 1) capable of providing counterbalancing force to counterbalance a weight of the lower elongated member (see lines 4-15, page 11, and figures 1, 2, and 7). The system also have at least two lifting cords (20, 21 in fig. 1) each coupled to the lower elongated member (13), and each passes through the collapsible window covering member (e.g., pleats 60) and into a channel (12) of the upper elongated support (11). Eventually, the lifting cords are coupled to the spring motor (as illustrated by figure 2, cords 20 and 21 eventually couple to the spring motor comprised of rotary members 34 and 35).

The system also has a pulley assembly with a plurality of pulley rotors aligned consecutively in the channel (as illustrated by figures 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9. See also lines 14-26, page 18). Each of the at least two lifting cords entrain about the group of pulley rotors in a circuitous fashion (as shown in figures 17 and 18) such that each of the two lifting cords repeatedly entrains about the group at least two laps (for example, in figure 17, lifting cord 104 goes around the group of rotors 1-5 in laps before exiting downwards).

As for dependent claim 65, the method requires a counterbalancing mechanism having at least two rotary members (see 34, 35 in figure 7), both of which are capable of entraining a secondary line (part 24, figure 7).

As for dependent claim 71, the claimed device requires that at least two lifting cords (104, 105 in figure 17) are stored on a group of pulley rotors (rotors 1-3, 5 in figure 17) in a circuitous fashion. Each of the least two lifting cords entrain about the second pulley rotors (e.g., rotor 5 in figure 17) at least twice.

As for dependent claim 72, wherein the first pulley rotor (rotor 1 in figure 17) is disposed at one terminal end of the group of pulley rotors, and the second pulley rotor (rotor 5 in figure 17) are disposed at an opposite terminal end of the group of pulley rotors. The rotors in figure 17 are arranged in a consecutive alignment, linear aligned one after another. These rotors align in a substantially straight line.

As for dependent claim 73, similar to claim 72, the at least two lifting cords are described to entrain about the group of rotors at least three laps. Also, the at least two lifting cords are coupled to the spring motor via at least one connecting cord (107 in figure 17).

CONCLUSION

The Appellant believes amendment to sections III and V above now places the Appeal Brief in compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 7, 2008

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